

CLAIMS

1. A method for inhibiting apoptosis of epidermal cells by increasing expression of SCCA-1 and/or SCCA-2 in epidermal cells.

5 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the apoptosis is induced by ultraviolet irradiation, and resistance to the onset of skin damage by UV irradiation of the skin is enhanced by said method.

10 3. A method for testing skin by evaluating resistance to skin damage caused by ultraviolet irradiation of the skin, comprising: measuring the amounts of SCCA-1 and/or SCCA-2 in epidermal cells, and judging ultraviolet resistance of the skin to be weak in the case said amounts are decreased as compared with
15 expression in epidermal cells.

4. The testing method according to claim 3, wherein expression of SCCA-1 and/or SCCA-2 is measured by ELISA or RIA using antibody specific to SCCA-1 and SCCA-2, respectively.

20 5. The testing method according to claim 3, wherein expression of SCCA-1 and/or SCCA-2 is measured by measuring the amount of mRNA encoding SCCA-1 and/or SCCA-2 extracted from epidermal cells.

25 6. A method for screening drugs which enhance resistance to skin damage caused by ultraviolet irradiation of skin, comprising: selecting a drug which increases expression of SCCA-1 and/or SCCA-2 for use as a ultraviolet resistance enhancer.